

From: Carrie Vibert May 14, 2012 1:32:41 PM  
Subject: Economic Development Commission Minutes 04/12/2012 ADOPTED  
To: SimsburyCT\_EconMin  
Cc:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mark Deming, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order on Thursday, April 12th, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. in the Main Meeting Room at the Town Offices. The following members were also present: Kris Barnett and Kevin Crimmins. Also in attendance were Ferg Jansen, liaison to the Planning Commission, Lisa Heavner, Board of Selectmen, and other interested parties.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 4, 2012

In the absence of a quorum, the Commission was unable to vote on the Approval of the Minutes from the March 4, 2012 meeting.

III. REPORTS; SMPS & FVVA

SMSP - Sarah Nielsen, Executive Director of SMSP, was unable to attend, so Commissioner Deming read her report in her absence. Ms. Nielsen reported that they recently held their Annual Meeting with business owners and announced a list of new Board members. She provided a review of what was discussed at the Annual Meeting. Ms. Nielsen mentioned they are gearing up for the Talcott Mountain Music Festival as well as the Gifford Pinchot Special Event (September 6th).

FVVA - Nancy Anstey, FVVA, reported that Sunday, April 7th is Trail Cleanup Day, on the Bike Trail, in preparation for Spring. She also mentioned the 65th Anniversary of the Opening of The Hill-Stead Museum which will be open on Monday, April 16th 12:00 noon to 5:00PM with an entry fee of \$0.50. Ms. Anstey mentioned the Mob's Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Fund Raiser. Ms. Anstey spoke about the Historic Barns Bus Tour, for which they are now taking reservation. Ms. Anstey said on May 15th, they are hosting the Farmington Valley Tourism Forum, from 7:00PM - 8:30PM, and told the Commission Members they will be receiving an invitation shortly. Ms. Anstey closed by saying, on May 17th, the new brand identity for the State of Connecticut will be unveiled in Hartford.

IV. WPCA: PAD and Town Center Zone Policy Update

Commissioner Deming said unfortunately, the WPCA does not have the FCC discussion, or any follow up regarding the consultants they have hired, on the Agenda for this evening's meeting, therefore it will be put off until next month's meeting. Commissioner Deming mentioned the importance this decision has with regards to current and future developments in town.

Commissioner Deming mentioned that the Design Guidelines are slated to be presented in June. He then said Mr. Peck would like to put out an RFQ for a Marketing Study, as well as form a group to oversee that process. Commissioner Deming then mentioned they will be reaching out to Canton's Planner and EDA, and possibly Avon as well, to see if there should be coordination with regards to the area around the Intersection of 44 & 167.

#### V. COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND (CEDF) FUNDING

Commissioner Deming reported that the CEDF did get their contract signed with regards to the \$100MM Grant and Loan Program, which provides favorable lending conditions to small businesses in CT. Mr. Deming directed people to the CEDF website for further information and details (<http://www.cedf.com/>).

#### VI. HARTFORD INSURANCE GROUP DIVESTITURE ANNOUNCEMENT

Commissioner Crimmins said he sat in on a meeting attended by Representative Schofield, First Selectman Mary Glassman, along with Town Administrative staff and representatives from The Hartford. Basically, Mr. Crimmins stated, they said they are in very preliminary stages of the process. Commissioner Crimmins mentioned they had reported, they have indicated they would like to keep their property in Simsbury. Commissioner Crimmins stated that there is just not enough information yet, and the process has not progressed enough to know what the end effect on Simsbury will ultimately be.

#### VII. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Lisa Heavner, Board of Selectmen, spoke about how the importance of getting the word out regarding this incredible small business loan/grant program, referenced earlier in the meeting. Ms. Heavner mentioned she had spoken with Ron Angelo, Deputy Commissioner of DECD, who can also offer access to this loan/grant program, and he expressed a willingness to partner with the EDC in an effort to get the word out to local small businesses. Ms. Heavner spoke about potential dates for this information session that will be held sometime in early May the Library. Commissioner Deming said he thinks it is very important that SMSP, EDC and the Chamber make sure all of this information is making out to business owners in town. Commissioner Barnett asked how this information can be accessed by small businesses in Town. Ms. Heavner said they will use all of their resources to get this out to everyone (SMSP, databases, Chamber of Commerce, etc.). Commissioner Barnett suggested ways to get this out in front of those that

might not be a member of SMSP or of the Chamber. Commissioner Deming asked Ms. Heavner to keep him updated on the potential date for that meeting.

Commissioner Deming mentioned that Timothy Ellsworth, a current Commission Member, is resigning effective June 1st, as he is moving out of Town.

Mr. Jensen mentioned that Mr. Peck, Town Planner, is hoping to have a study done regarding parking options in Town Center. This topic was briefly discussed.

The cell phone walking tour of Hopmeadow Street was discussed as well as the Simsbury Art Walk.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Crimmins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05AM. Commissioner Barnett seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.